FAMILY
HISTORY
MCINTURF

C14

A LEGACY

The McInturf farm & family

1844 - 1986

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LOCATION

The McInturf farm lies 3 miles east of Kendallville, and 3 miles west of Corunna; north of U.S. Hwy 6 on the Noble/DeKalb county line road. The first farmhouse was once part of the farm; the second farmhouse on the east side of the road, sits on the portion still in family hands today.

Most of the day-to-day trading was done in Kendallville, some in Corunna and Helmer; legal transactions are recorded in Auburn, as the farm is in Fairfield township of DeKalb County.

 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

JULY 1787: An ordinance enacted by the U. S. Congress created the "Northwest Territorys" which later became the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and a southeastern portion of Minnesota.

AUGUST 1794: Near what is now Toledo Ohio, an American force lead by General "Mad Anthony" Wayne met in conflict with a united war party of some 2000 Indians under the joint command of Black Hawk's Shawnee and Blue Jacket's Ottawa, Chippewa, and Potawatomi. "The Battle of Fallen Timbers" lasted only forty minutes, but it broke the back of Indian domination, opening millions of acres for white settlement.

1800: Indiana established as a seperate territory; Vincennes designated as the capitol, General William Henry Harrison appointed Governor.

NOVEMBER 1811: General William Henry Harrison defeated the Prophet (brother of Tecumseh) at the Battle of Tippecanoe (near present-day LaFayette); this was the finale of Indian wars fought on Indiana soil.

1813: Corydon, (WSW of present-day New Albany) named as capitol of the Indiana Territory.

11 DECEMBER 1816: Having met the population requirement of 60,000, Indiana was admitted to the Union as the 19th state.

1825: Indianapolis named as the state capitol of Indiana.

(continued)

1831: A joint resolution of the legislature of Indiana, requesting an appropriation by Congress for the extinguishment of Indian title to the lands within the state, was forwarded to that body, which granted the request.

1833: By treaty, the government purchased lands of the Potawatomi (believed containing the later McInturf farm).

1836: "The Indian Removal Act" was given to a Colonel Abel C. Pepper for enactment; this was not fully accomplished until 1838, there being some "strays" remaining in or returning to the area until 1845. An excellant account is in the 1920 History of Northeast Indiana - LaGrange County.

By: Mrs. Sigourney, American Poet

"Ye say they all have passed away,
that noble race and brave;
That their light canoes have vanished
from off the crested wave;
That 'mid the forest where they roamed
There rings no hunter's shout;
But their name is on your waters
Ye may not wash it out."

With the Indians well on their way to relocation westward, land speculators converged on the vast areas of northeast Indiana.

FEBRUARY 1837: One tract (legal description documents the location of the present-day McInturf farm) was granted by the U. S. Government to Mr. Able Millington.

(continued)

 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (continued)

5 MARCH 1839: Able Millington had died; his lands, by right of heir, passed to his son Darwin and daughter-in-law Miranda A. Millington, who resided in the village of Charleston, Kane County, Illinois. They sold the Feb. 1837 land to Thomas M. and Lydia Ann Town of Ypsilanti, Washteneau County, Michigan.

(end of Historical Background)

23 SEPTEMBER 1844: Through Wesly Park, DeKalb County agent for Thomas and Lydia Town, 80 acres, price - $160, was sold to the first white occupying pioneers. Elihu McInturf, with his wife Rachel (Brown), and daughter Sarah Ann, moved onto and began clearing the land. The first dwelling was erected on the extreme northeast corner of the farm; the original stone foundation was still in evidence in the early 1940's.

17 NOVEMBER 1850: Elihu McInturf purchased an additional 50 acres bordering the southern edge of his then farm; frontage was on the Noble/DeKalb county line road. It was onto this land that the "headquarters" of the farm was moved; the original barn, built around 1855, still stands today.

22 MARCH 1865: Elihu McInturf's final land purchase, believed along a lane some 100 feet north of U.S. Hwy 6; bringing the farm land mass to 132 acres.

1882: An article on Elihu McInturf is published in the History of DeKalb County.

15 AUGUST 1889: Elihu McInturf died in Kendallville, a much-respected Christian member of the community. His obituary was published in the Kendallville Standard, issue dated August 23, 1889. Title of his lands passed to his widow - Rachel.

26 SEPTEMBER 1889: Rachel (Brown) McInturf, reserving the right of lifetime residency, and with conditions of lease fees (paid quaterly) and money towards her burial expenses, passed joint title to son William Martyn McInturf, and daughter Sarah Ann (McInturf) Orr.

(continued)

4 NOVEMBER 1889: William Martyn McInturf bought out all claims of his sister Sarah, her husband Abram Orr, and their children - son Elmer & daughter Vesta; thereby gaining sole title to the farm, but retaining the obligation of lease and funeral expenses to Rachel. Evidently he reneged on the deal because in 1908, undoubtedly at the advocation of Sarah and children, Rachel took him to court and won the judgement.

20 JANUARY 1916: William Martyn McInturf died at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Garrett; his obituary was published in the Garrett Clipper. Title to the farm passed to his widow - Emma A. (Bronson) McInturf.

21 JUNE 1919: The distribution of the estate of William Martyn McInturf. An agreement among widow Emma, sons Lewis H. & wife Pearl (Strater) McInturf, Merritt F. & wife Amanda (Miller) McInturf, and Frederick P. & wife Sadie (Knott) McInturf. Emma, Louis & wife, conveyed their interest to Merritt & Frederick and wives. Emma received from Frederick, Lewis received from Merritt, cash down payments and promisary notes (at 6% annual interest) over an 8 year period, effective 1 March 1920. Thus, joint title was held by Merritt & Frederick.

13 DECEMBER 1920: Final settlement of a "falling out" over the management of the then farm between Merritt and his brother Fred. After an exchange on monies, Merritt got the northern half, Fred the southern half (66 acres each).

(author's note: Merritt was a very determined (stubborn?) man; he took a 12 foot hand log saw, cut the existing farmhouse in half, put it up on native-wood rollers, and using teams of horses, drug it across several hills to where it sets today.)

(continued)

1 NOVEMBER 1923: Frederick P. McInturf died; title to his half of the original farm passed to his widow - Sadie, son Earl James, and daughter Bernice Arleen; here's what happened to it. Sadie remarried in 1925 to Rev. Herman Hedges. 21 December 1933: Sadie, Earl & wife Florence (Sylvester), Bernice & husband Harry Marvin, sold to Henry & Retta F. Hathaway. Around 1938: The Hathaways sold to Benjamin C. & Opal (Pray) Ramsey. 2 May 1955: The Ramseys sold to previous owners - Rev. Herman & Sadie (Knott)(McInturf) Hedges. 27 April 1959: the Hedges sold to Lee R. & wife Ruth A. Rush. 12 July 1985: Lee R. Rush, by quit claim, gave sole title to Ruth A. Rush.

31 AUGUST 1945: Merritt F. McInturf, reserving lifetime residency (but asking no payments) conveyed joint title of his half of the original farm (66 acres) to son Otis Everett McInturf, and daughter Mabel Gladys (McInturf) Wilson; this is how it stands today.

25 SEPTEMBER 1954: Merritt F. McInturf died in Kendallville; his obituary was published in the Kendallville News-Sun.

As of this writing, Otis Everett McInturf is the sole occupant of the farm; Mabel Gladys (McInturf) Wilson resides in the Kendallville Nursing Home.

(end of through the years)

 CLOSING STATEMENT

And so goes a legacy; it began with McInturfs, and it's going to end with McInturfs, perhaps as it should be. Otis Everett McInturf has no heirs; the children of Mabel Gladys (McInturf) Wilson are listed as heirs in her last will & testament, but will not inherite the farm, due to the cost for her care and comfort in her remaining time.

May God protect and preserve the pioneer spirit and memory of the McInturfs.

JHW: December 1986

 GENEALOGY

Direct ancestory only; specifics on related families and younger generations may be obtained from the author.

OTIS EVERETT McINTURF (my uncle)

born: 20 Sept 1915 "the old homestead"

married: once, not indicated, respect for privacy.

MABEL GLADYS McINTURF (my mother)

born: 22 Jan 1904 "the old homestead"

married: #1 not indicated, respect for privacy

#2 25 May 1926 Corunna, Indiana

to: William Walter Wilson (my father)

born: 3 May 1877 New Carlisle, Indiana

died: 18 Sept 1947 VA Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana

buried: Fairfield Center Cemetary, DeKalb County, Indiana

children: 1. Garrett Merritt Wilson, born 26 Dec 1926, resides California

2. William Walter Wilson, born 29 July 1931, resides New Hampshire

3. James Harvey Wilson, born 10 June 1939, author

MERRITT F. McINTURF (father of Otis & Mabel, my grandfather)

born: 29 May 1878 "the old homestead"

married: #1 not indicated, respect for privacy.

#2 10 Mar 1903 Auburn, Indiana

to: Amanda Belva Miller (my grandmother)

born: 5 Apr 1876 Helmer, Indiana

died: 7 June 1944 of burns, McCray Hospital, Kendallville.

Her one-day stay cost $7.00.

died: 25 Sept 1954 congestive heart failure & asthma, McCray's, K-ville.

buried: Fairfield Center (continued)

Merritt McInturf is fondly remembered in the community; he was always ready to help a neighbor with farm, personal, or money problems. He was a farmer, swine raiser, and rabbit breeder; also the local butcher. Many times I witnessed this little old man, not much over 5 feet tall, weighing just over 100 pounds (with a wet hankerchief in his pocket), shoulder a front quarter of beef and walk up an ice-covered hill to put it in the truck. He was also a sheep-shearer and cattle de-horner. The beginning of his decline came in 1951 when he had to have an operation on his prostrate; the cost of his one-week stay in St. Joseph's Hospital in Ft. Wayne, was $84.00. He was reputed as: "if there's a hard way to do something, he'de find it!". Rest in peace Mac, (as us boys called him).

WILLIAM MARTYN McINTURF (father of Merritt, my great grandfather)

born: 21 Mar 1846 "the old homestead"

married: 24 Dec 1874 Kendallville, Indiana

to: Emma A. Bronson

born: 11 Mar 1854 Knox County, Ohio

died: 19 Feb 1920 Kendallville

children: 1. Lewis Henry McInturf

born: 30 July 1875 "the old homestead"

married: Pearl B. Strater (1881-1970) no children.

died: 18 May 1953 near Hudson, Indiana

2. Merritt F. (see page #9)

3. Frederick P.

born: 16 Oct 1879 "the old homestead"

married: Sadie Knott (1884-1962) 2 children, see page #7.

died: 1 Nov 1923 Sacred Heart Hospital, Garrett, Indiana

4. Willie born: 16 Jan 1883, died: 30 Sept 1883

(continued)

 GENEALOGY (Wm. M. McInturf, continued)

died: 20 Jan 1916 Sacred Heart Hospital, Garrett, Indiana

buried: Lakeview Cemetary, Kendallville

Despite the page #6 comment about his "reneging on the deal", which was not meant to be derogitory, just truthful, William Martyn should be remembered as a good man. He was a schoolteacher at the old Bodenhafer schoolhouse (intersection of U.S. Hwy 6 & Noble County Rd. 1000E) for years. He was a farmer, well reknown for his raising of Poland China hogs and Plymouth Rock chickens. He too was short in stature, had red hair & beard, and a temper to match. My mother told me of his once kicking a cow and broke his toe. A Christian man, a learned man who wrote several "opinions" to the then Kendallville paper. He was always ready to help a neighbor, especially with a sale at which he sometimes auctioneered.

ELIHU McINTURF (father of William Martyn, my great-great grandfather)

born: 17 June 1815 near Newark, Licking County, Ohio

married: 30 Aug 1841 Newark, Ohio

to: Rachel Brown

born: 25 Jan 1823 in Pennsylvania

died: 8 Nov 1909 Garrett, Indiana

children: 1. Sarah Ann, born 1844 in Illinois, died 1 May 1925, Garrett, Indiana

2. William Martyn (see pages 10 & 11)

died: 15 Aug 1889 Kendallville

buried: Lakeview Cemetary, Kendallville

(end of genealogy)

This writing is dedicated to the people of Noble & DeKalb Counties, and to future researchers. (JHW: December 1986, Rome City, Indiana)

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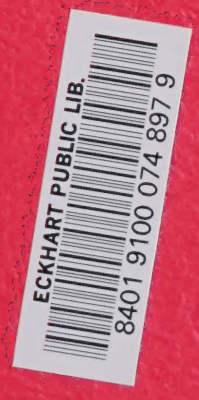

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